

REMARKS

By this amendment, applicants have added claims 28 - 39 to define further aspects of the present invention. See, e.g., Figures 7 - 10 and the description in, e.g., paragraphs 0044-0048 of applicants' specification.

Claims 1 - 27 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by European Patent Application Publication No. 0 477 727 (EP '727). Applicants traverse this rejection and request reconsideration thereof.

The present invention relates to a manufacturing method of a structural body, to a structural body, and to a car body of a railway vehicle. Claims 1 - 4, 6, 7, 10 - 13, 15, 16, 19 - 22, 24 and 25 involve the use of first and second plates or an extruded frame member and a second plate in which the first plate or the extruded frame member has a recessed portion and the second plate has a raised portion protruding therefrom. As set forth in these claims, the raised portion is inserted in and abutted to the recessed portion and the respective abutted portions welded. As set forth in claims 5 - 9, 14 - 18 and 23 - 27, the first plate or extruded frame member comprises plural ribs along an extrusion direction. These features are neither disclosed nor suggested by EP '727.

EP '727 discloses a body structure for railway vehicles formed of a plurality of sections. Each of the sections has a reinforcement in an integrally continuous construction. The reinforcement has a plurality of through-holes which reduce total weight of the reinforcement and a plurality of ribs formed around the holes. The reinforcement is securely placed together with a surface of an outer plate.

The Examiner refers to Figures 3A -3C of EP '727 which shows an end body structure of the railway vehicle. In the embodiment shown in Figures 3A-3C, two end wall frames 33 are connected together with an end entrance upper frame 34

therebetween. However, the office action makes absolutely no mention of any of the frames having a recessed portion and being abutted to and joined to another sub-assembly having a raised portion protruding therefrom. In fact, it appears EP '727 does not disclose the use of first and second plates or an extruded frame member and a second plate in which the first plate or extruded frame member has a recessed portion and the second plate has a raised portion protruding therefrom, the raised portion being inserted in and abutted to the recessed portion and the respective abutted portions welded, as presently claimed. Therefore, it appears EP '727 does not anticipate claims 1 - 4, 6, 7, 10 - 13, 15, 16, 19 - 22, 24 and 25.

The office action makes no mention of EP '727 disclosing a first plate or extruded frame member comprising plural ribs along an extrusion direction. In fact, it does not appear that EP '727 discloses extruded members. Rather, it appears the frames of EP '727 are constructed by the use of a press. That is, the frames appear to be made by pressing a light, thin plate through which holes are punches. Thus, it appears the frames of EP '727 are made by pressing and/or punching, and an outer plate then mounted on the frames. Accordingly, it is submitted EP '727 does not anticipate claims 5 - 9, 14 - 18 and 23 - 27.

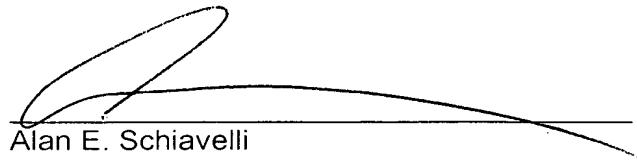
In view of the foregoing remarks, it is submitted all of the claims now in the application are in condition or allowance.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli,

Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 503.40902X00),
and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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